Foreign investment in print media

65. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Move to let in foreign media through the back door" appearing in the Hindu, dated 21st June, 2001;

(b) whether Government propose to allow the foreign investment in the print media;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative would it not tantamount to indirect entry of foreign media?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government continues to be guided by the Cabinet Decision of 1955, which prohibits publication of foreign owned newspapers/periodicals in the country and Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs.

Indian Entry in the Cannes Film Festival

66. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although there was not a single official entry of Indian film in the annual film festival at Cannes large number of senior officials of her Ministry visited Cannes;

(b) if so, the names of those officials who attended the film festival at Cannes and what was the purpose of their visit.

(c) whether advance approval of the Directorate of Film Festivals was taken before sending a large indian delegation to Cannes;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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(e) what action Government have taken for the implementation of the Geethakrishnan committee's proposal for streamling the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) There was no official entry of Indian film in the Annual Film Festival at Cannes. However, concomitant with the festival, the Cannes Film Market is organized. Officials from the Ministry were deputed in connection with india's enhanced participation in the Cannes Film Market, to promote film exports as well as to promote the production facilities available in the country.

(b) The following officers from the Ministry of I&B attended the Cannes Film Market:

1. Shri Pawan Chopra, Secretary, I&B
2. Smt Nina L. Gupta, DS, M/o. I&B

Some officers of National Film Development Corporation Ltd. also attended the Cannes Film Market. Director, Directorate of Film Festivals attended the Cannes Film Festival.

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise as the Directorate of Film Festivals is an attached office of the Ministry.

(e) No decision has been taken as yet on the report of the Geethakrishnan Committee.

Procedures for producing and telecasting programmes on National Channel

67. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the procedures for producing and telecasting programmes (other than News) of National Channel;

(b) how many complaints and suggestions have been received this year *i.e.* 2001 for improving the programmes; and